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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 31 are pending. Claim 6 is canceled, claims 17 to 29 are withdrawn from consideration, and claim 31 is new.

1. At the outset, the Applicants request written confirmation from the Examiner that the changes to Figs. 3 and 9 set forth in the amendment filed October 6, 2004, are acceptable. If they are, the Applicants would like to file a new set of formal drawings incorporating those changes.

2. In the amendment filed October 6, 2004, the Applicants set forth specific arguments as to why they believe the restriction requirement between claims 1 to 16 (Group I) and claims 17 to 29 (Group II) is improper. As filed, independent claim 1 calls for "a terminal . . . connectable to a lead for the conductor," and "a body . . . supporting the terminal". Independent method claim 17 includes as one of its steps "molding a body of polymeric material . . . supporting the terminal."

In that respect, an aspect of method claim 17 is that the polymeric material encases (supports) the terminal. This precludes reaming and boring the polymeric material in order to fit the terminal into the supporting body. In other words, the terminal must be properly positioned before the polymeric material partially encases it, but leaving "a bore communicating from outside the body to the . . . lead openings of the terminals", as set forth in independent method claim

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18. In the alternative, reaming and boring techniques could be used to provide a passageway into which the terminal is moved and then cemented or otherwise secured in place. However, in that case the molded body would not support the terminal. Instead, the cement would. In fact, the Applicants' presently claimed invention in respect to both the article of manufacture (header assembly) and method claims is an improvement over those prior processes that required reaming and boring techniques to provide a header for a medical device.

Reconsideration of this restriction requirement is requested.

3. Claims 1 to 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ware (U.S. Patent No. 5,086,773). The Ware patent shows a pacemaker lead assembly comprising an insulating connection housing 50 supported on the partition member 55 of a pulse generator compartment. The partition 55 includes openings for feedthrough wires 57 and 63. The wires pass through respective non-conductive sleeves 54 and 61 supported by metal retainer sleeves 56 and 62. The metal sleeves 56 and 62 can also be extruded from the metallic partition 55. See column 6, lines 32 to 55. Otherwise, it appears from Fig. 4 that the metal sleeves 56, 62 are smooth-walled cylindrical members.

Independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended to cover an assembly comprising an implantable medical device and a header. The implantable medical device comprises a housing having an opening through which a feedthrough wire extends.

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The feedthrough wire is electrically insulated from the housing by a seal. The housing further has a lug provided with a lug opening. The claimed header assembly comprises a terminal positioned outside the housing and connectable to the extending feedthrough wire. A body supports the terminal in a connectable relationship to a lead of a conductor leading to a body organ. The body also has at least one inlet with an intersecting bore. This structure provides for connecting the header to the housing for the medical device when the lug is received in the body inlet. In this mating relationship, the through bore in the body is aligned with the lug opening. A fastener then secures the body to the medical device housing. This connection is shown in Fig. 10 and described on page 10, line 13 to page 11, line 13 of the specification.

Independent claims 1 and 2 are neither anticipated by Ware, nor would they have been obvious in light of this patent. The metal reinforcing members 56, 62 do not have openings through which a fastener is moved to secure the insulating connector housing 50 to the pulse generator compartment housing 26. Further, they cannot be easily adapted to have such structure. This means that in their amended form, independent claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Ware. Claims 3 to 5, 7 to 9 and 11 are allowable as hinging from a patentable base claim. Claim 6 is canceled.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

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4. Claims 10 and 12 to 16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ware. However, these claims depend from amended independent claim 2. For that reason, they are believed to be allowable.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

5. Independent claim 30 is new and directed to a body supporting a terminal. The body is secured to a housing for an implantable medical device by encasing at least one anchor having a protruding portion encased by the body to secure them together. The anchors 72 are shown in Fig. 3 having an inverted L-shape so that part of the body resides under a leg of the protrusion to facilitate the securement. This is an improvement over the structure of the Ware patent where the insulating connector housing 50 could slip off of the smooth-walled sleeves 56, 62. With the anchor of the Applicants' claimed invention, slippage of the body off of the encased protruding portion is not possible.

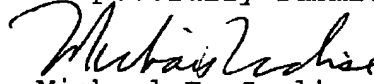
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It is believed that claims 1 to 5, 7 to 16 and 30 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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